

# AMADOR WATER AGENCY

## Board of Directors Meeting

12800 Ridge Road, Sutter Creek, CA 95685

May 28, 2009

9:00 a.m.

Website Address: [www.amadorwa.com](http://www.amadorwa.com)

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1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

Items added to the agenda must be approved by the Board pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Discussion items only, no action to be taken. Any person may address the Board at this time upon any subject within the jurisdiction of Amador Water Agency; however, any matter that requires action will be referred to Staff for a report and action at a subsequent Board meeting. Please note there is a five (5) minute time limit per person.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Items listed on the consent agenda (see attached) are considered routine and may be enacted by one motion. Any item may be removed for discussion and made a part of the regular agenda at the request of a Board member(s).

5. **AGENCY GENERAL**

A. California Water Plan

1. Discussion and direction to send comments on the California Water Plan Draft

B. California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA)

1. Discussion and direction regarding the State borrowing property tax revenue of \$500 million from Water and Wastewater agencies
2. Discussion and direction regarding proposal to increase fees to Water and Wastewater Agencies

C. Grant Stimulus Update

1. Review of grant applications in process

D. Graphical Information System (GIS)

1. Presentation of Munsys system by Anthony Sudderth, GIS/CAD Tech

6. **COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

- A. ACWA Conference – May 19-22, 2009
- B. Mountain Counties – May 8, 2009
- C. Drytown CSD- May 7, 2009
- D. PR Committee Meeting –May 26, 2009
- E. JVID Meeting
- F. Regional Planning Meeting May 05, 2009

7. **BOARD OF DIRECTOR DISTRICT REPORTS** - The Board Members may report on various activities, meetings, etc. that they have been involved in within their respective districts. Discussion only, no formal action will be taken. Any matter requiring action will be placed on an upcoming agenda for consideration.

8. **FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS** -This item is to provide the Board Members an opportunity to request items to be placed on future agendas.

9. **ADJOURNMENT** - Next Regular Board Meeting June 12, 2009

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, then please contact Cris Thompson at (209) 223-3018 or (209) 257-5281 (fax). Requests must be made as early as possible, and at least two-full business days before the start of the meeting.*

*Documents and materials relating to an open session agenda item that are provided to the Amador Water Agency Board of Directors less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting will be available for public inspection and copying at 12800 Ridge Rd, Sutter Creek CA 95685*

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Terence W. Moore, President    Bill Condrashoff, Vice President    Don Cooper    Gary Thomas    Debbie Dunn

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# AMADOR WATER AGENCY

## CONSENT AGENDA

May 28, 2009

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Items listed on the consent agenda are considered routine and may be enacted by one motion. Any item may be removed for discussion and made a part of the regular agenda at the request of a Board member(s).

### 1. MISCELLANEOUS APPROVALS

- a) Approval of accounts payable for April, 2009
- b) Approval of the Board finding the Broad Street Pipeline Project exempt under CEQA guidelines and direct staff to file notice of exemption and other associated documents that may be necessary in association with this project.

### **\*\*\* DATES TO REMEMBER \*\*\***

May 25, 2009 Holiday- Offices Closed  
June 8, 2009 Budget Workshop 9:00 a.m.  
June 11, 2009 Regular Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.  
June 11, 2009 Martell WW Rate Hearing 6 p.m.  
June 25, 2009 Regular Board meeting

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### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Terence W. Moore, President    Bill Condrashoff, Vice President    Don Cooper    Gary Thomas    Debbie Dunn

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# STAFF REPORT

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## Broad Street Pipeline Environmental Exemption

**Requested Action:**

Make a finding that this project is excluded from further environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 21080.21 and direct staff to file the Notice of Exemption and other associated documents that may be necessary in association with this project.

**Background:**

The Amador Water System includes a transmission water main which serves Sutter Creek and other customers. Staff has determined that this pipeline will be experiencing velocities approaching 7 feet per second during the peak summer demands in the next few years. This higher velocity will result in pressure degradation in the system and impact domestic pressures as well as fire flow capacities during peak water demands. Staff is recommending the installation of approximately 1200 lineal feet of 16 inch water main along Broad Street from Eureka Street to Gopher Flat. This project is included in this fiscal year's budget. All proposed projects must consider CEQA requirements and their applicability to the project.

This project is less one mile in length and includes a pipeline that will be buried underground in a public roadway. CEQA Guidelines provide a specific Statutory Exemption, 21080.21 which exclude pipelines (underground) less than one mile that are located in a public right of way from further CEQA review.

Staff recommends that the Board make a finding that this project is exempt from further CEQA review under CEQA Guideline Section 21080.21 and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption and other associated documents.

Prepared by:

Gene Mancebo

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**AMADOR WATER AGENCY  
REPORT ON REVIEW FOR CEQA EXEMPTIONS**

Name, Location and Brief Description of Project

Name: Broad Street Water Main installation

Location: Broad Street, Sutter Creek, CA, Amador County

Description: The project includes the construction of approximately 1200 lineal feet of 16 inch water main along Broad Street in Sutter Creek from Eureka Street to Gopher Flat. Staff estimated that within the next few years the velocity will exceed 7 feet per second in this transmission main during peak summer use and cause excessive pressure loss. This improvement project will benefit customers in and beyond the Sutter Creek area which rely on this transmission main.

Entity or Person Undertaking Project

  X        A.    Amador Water Agency

Contact:     Gene Mancebo  
                  12800 Ridge Road  
                  Sutter Creek, CA 95685  
                  209-257-5244

          B.    Other Contact:

Contact:  
Address:  
Phone:

Recommendation:

  X        A.    This project does not require further environmental assessment because:

- 1.    The proposed action does not constitute a project (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15037)
- 2.    The project is a ministerial project (State CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15032, 15073)
- 3.    The project is an emergency project

(State CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15025,10574,  
15100)

- 4. The project is categorically exempt  
(State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, 15303 Class
- 5. Statutory Exemption, Section 21080.21

Brief Statement of Reasons Why Project is Exempt Under 1 Through 5

This project is less than 1 mile and will be installed entirely in a public road way. The pipeline will be installed underground. This project is excluded from further CEQA review given the project parameters and in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines Statutory Exemption 21080.21

- B. The project involves another public agency which constitutes the lead agency primarily responsible for carrying out or approval of the project.

Lead Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

AMADOR WATER AGENCY

Date: 5/22/09 \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Manager of Engineering & Planning

APPROVED

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Directors

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

To: County Clerk  
County of Amador  
810 Court St  
Jackson, CA 95642

From: Amador Water Agency  
12800 Ridge Road  
Sutter Creek, CA 95685

Project Title  
Broad Street Water Main Installation

Project Location-Specific  
Broad Street, Sutter Creek, CA, Amador County

Project Location-City  
Sutter Creek

Project Location-County  
Amador

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project

Installation of approximately 1200 lineal feet of 16 inch water main to avoid excessive velocities and to maintain adequate domestic delivery pressures and fire flow. Customers in and beyond the Sutter Creek area will benefit from this project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project  
Amador Water Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project  
Gene Mancebo

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- Ministerial (Sec. 15073)
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 15071(a))
- Emergency Project (Sec. 15071(b) and (c))
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 21080.21

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project involves the installation of an underground water main which is less than 1 mile which is installed in a public right of way.

Contact Person  
Gene Mancebo, Manager of Engineering and Planning

Area Code Telephone Extension  
(209) 257-5245

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
- 2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project: Yes  No

Date Received for Filing \_\_\_\_\_

Gene Mancebo  
Manager of Engineering and Planning

# **STAFF REPORT**

## California Water Plan Draft Comments

**Requested Action:**

Direct staff to provide the attached comments on the California Water Plan

**Background:**

The State of California updates the California Water Plan approximately every 5 years. The last update included a section dedicated to the Mountain Counties Region. The State has prepared a draft plan and is soliciting comments for inclusion in the plan.

Staff has reviewed the plan and has the following suggested comments to be included in the plan. The comments focus on the Mountain Counties Section, which has been attached for your information. Staff recommends sending these draft comments to the State for inclusion in the plan.

Prepared by:

Jim Abercrombie  
General Manager

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# DRAFT

Paul Dabbs  
Strategic Water Planning  
Statewide Integrated Water Management  
California Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Mr. Dabbs,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the California Water Plan Draft. Below are our comments on the Mountain Counties Chapter in the Water Plan:

## Page 13-7 Water Supplies

After years of studies, the Amador Water Agency committed to replace its old Amador Canal with a new Amador Transmission Pipeline in 2006. The old canal lost 40-50% of the water along the 23-mile canal through leakage and seepage. It also faced serious water quality degradation along its route and was susceptible to outages and landslides. The Agency decided to invest \$22 million dollars of private financing to build a 9-mile pipeline and will eventually abandon the canal. The project has been operational for 2 years and the project objectives of increased water delivery efficiency, and conservation, water quality preservation, improved reliability have been met and exceeded.

## Page 13-22 Recent Accomplishments

Amador Water Agency completed a \$22 million pipeline project to replace the old 23-mile Amador Canal with a 8-mile 30" pipeline project that provides water to the western portion of Amador County.

## Page 13-23 Water Supply and sustainability

Regarding the water rights comment, please strengthen area of origin discussion and protection.

## Page 13-26 Storage

Amador Water Agency is studying the expansions of Lower Bear River Reservoir with regional partners of Calaveras County Water Agency, EBMUD, and San Joaquin County to provide an additional 26,000 acre feet for water supply, additional hydrogenation, and possible enhanced environmental flows.

Page 13-26 Water Recycling

Amador Water Agency is developing a Regional Recycling Master Plan that involves the coordination of the Cities of Jackson, Sutter Creek, Lone, and Plymouth, and the County to provide reuse of 20% of our water supply by 2020.

Page 13-27 Multiple Responses

General Comment: The Agency is pursuing the development of a water supply portfolio consisting of water recycling, conservation, and additional surface water supplies. The Agency, in partnership with Calaveras County Water District, East Bay Municipal Utilities District, and San Joaquin County are developing an Interregional Conjunctive Use Project (IRCUP). The concept is described in both the MAC IRWMP and the Eastern San Joaquin IRWMP. The concept includes the addition of regulatory storage at Lower Bear, Pardee, and or Duck Creek Reservoirs, or a combination of the three, and could use the San Joaquin ground water basin storage to provide additional water supply storage and address the critical overdraft needs of the valley.

The concept can also be expanded to include environmental enhancements such as creation of additional cold water storage for fishery benefits, as well as high mountain meadow restoration.

It is reassuring that the Agency's key water resource management strategies align very well with the State of California's management strategies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft California Water Plan Update 2009.

Sincerely,

Jim Abercrombe  
General Manager  
Amador Water Agency

# **STAFF REPORT**

Proposal by State to borrow \$500 million from Water and  
Wastewater Agencies

Proposal to increase fees to Water and Wastewater  
Agencies

**Requested Action:**

Authorization to staff to send letter to State Legislative Officials opposing the two proposals.

**Background:**

Please see attached letter from CASA regarding the State's proposals.

Prepared by: Jim Abercrombie, General Manager

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# ***CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of SANITATION AGENCIES***

1215 K Street, Suite 2290, Sacramento, CA 95814 PH: (916) 446-0388 – FX: (916) 231-2141 www.casaweb.org

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 21, 2009

TO: CASA Member Agencies  
CASA Attorneys  
CASA Associates  
CASA Executive Board  
CASA Legislative Committee

FROM: Mike Dillon, CASA Lobbyist  
Christina DiCaro, CASA Lobbyist

RE: **NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL**

## **I. LAO REPORT SUGGESTS STATE COULD LOOK TO BORROW \$500 MILLION FROM WATER AND WASTEWATER AGENCIES**

Shortly before noon today, the non-partisan Legislative Analyst released his “Overview of the 2009-2010 May Revision,” which seeks to analyze the May Revision proposals submitted by Governor Schwarzenegger last week. In addition to providing a revised revenue estimate, the LAO also lays out some options/alternatives for the Legislature to consider, beyond the Governor’s proposals. You will recall from our memo to you last week, the Governor is suggesting that the legislature borrow \$2 million in property taxes from cities, counties, and special districts under the terms of Proposition 1A of 2004. You may also recall that Proposition 1A allows that up to 8% of local governments’ property tax revenues can be borrowed by the state and must be repaid within three Budget years, with interest. The Governor suggested that local governments be given the opportunity to “borrow against the state’s constitutional obligation to repay, thereby mitigating the impact of this reduction.” (The Department of Finance tells us that they are suggesting that a statewide JPA be created for the sole purpose of allowing struggling cities, counties, and special districts to qualify for short-term loans.) However, the LAO is proposing a much more onerous solution – to allow the legislature to borrow over a quarter of the total \$2 billion loan amount from water and wastewater enterprise special districts.

First, the LAO issues some initial findings that “California’s cities, counties and special districts also have been experiencing fiscal stress due to the economic downturn” and cautioned that “some of the Governor’s budget solutions would exacerbate this stress...” Thus, the LAO recommends: “the Legislature acknowledge the impact of the state’s budget solutions on local governments, implement budget solutions in a targeted fashion, and take actions to maximize local government program flexibility and resources whenever possible.” This statement, however, is in direct conflict with their second suggestion, which is the following:

***“Proposition 1A Borrowing Could Be Adjusted.*** *The Constitution does not require that the property tax borrowing be implemented on an across-the-board basis as proposed by the Governor. Instead of borrowing 8 percent from each local agency, the state could borrow a larger percentage from agencies that have greater capacity to 1) reduce programs or 2) replace property taxed with fees or other revenues. For example, the state could borrow over a quarter of the total loan amount from waste and water enterprise special districts, a group of local agencies the legislature previously directed to get off the property tax roll entirely. (These special districts typically depend on property taxes for less than 7 percent of their operating revenues and have broad authority to increase fees or reduce programs.) Borrowing more property taxes from waste and water enterprise special districts would allow the state to borrow less from agencies with less fiscal flexibility.”* (LAO Overview – 5/21/09)

In speaking later with a representative from the Legislative Analyst's Office for clarification, we were informed that this could mean that if all enterprise district property taxes were taken, which currently amounts to a little over \$500 million, this figure would represent the “quarter of the total loan amount” of the \$2 billion total shift, referenced above.

Lastly, the LAO also suggests, in an appendix to their report, about 125 options, including reductions to various state programs, fee increases, elimination of current tax exemptions, etc. that would generate about \$9 billion, if all were enacted. Included in the list are options pertaining to the State Water Resources Control Board that we have previously reported on such as:

- *“Increase fees by expanding fee base to pay for water quality management activities.*
- *Increase fees in core regulatory permitting and enforcement program.*
- *Eliminate General Fund support for Total Maximum Daily Load Program to regulate water pollution.”*

These issues will now be part of the conversations that will take place in the Budget Conference Committee process, which commenced this afternoon.

## **II. BUDGET CONFERENCE COMMITTEE BEGINS WORK – A NEW APPROACH AND MORE CUTS BY GOVERNOR REVEALED**

This afternoon the powerful Budget Conference Committee held their first hearing to address the Governor's May Revision and the Legislative Analyst's report released today. In past years, the Budget Conference Committee has typically consisted of three members of the Assembly and three members of the Senate. These six members typically convene in June, after the Budget Subcommittees conclude their review of the subject matters under their jurisdiction. However, in response to complaints from legislators and the public that the Budget Conference Committee process and “Big 5” leadership negotiations are “done behind closed doors” to a certain extent, the Assembly Speaker and Senate President pro Tem are conducting a very open public process with this year's Budget Conference Committee. The leadership has halted Budget Subcommittee hearings indefinitely and all related discussion will now be held in Budget Conference Committee. In addition, they have

named additional members to the deliberative body, bringing the total number of conferees to 10.

According to Budget Conference Committee Chair, Assemblywoman Noreen Evans, the conferees will subscribe to an ambitious schedule and will be “meeting almost every day.” She noted, “We have less time and fewer and fewer options as the days go on. The outlook is grim.... There are people who think the state needs to ‘go off a cliff’ but I think that would be irresponsible.”

Before Assemblywoman Evans could address the schedule in some specifics, she surprised many in the audience by noting, “We heard – just now – that the Governor has done another May Revise. It supposedly has \$5.5 billion in additional cuts. We would appreciate knowing what it is.” She then noted that the LAO and Department of Finance would make their presentations today, followed by the State Controller and State Treasurer tomorrow. New this year to the process is an opportunity for the public and lobbyists to comment on various aspects of the Governor’s May Revision and the LAO’s recommendations. However, in light of the Governor’s newest proposal to cut an additional \$5.5 billion mentioned by Chair Evans, she is postponing public comment until those cuts come to light in a special hearing of the Budget Conference Committee on Tuesday. (Note: The additional \$5.5 billion in cuts are the results of the Governor deciding not to issue \$5.5 billion in Revenue Anticipation Warrants because of legal issues raised as to whether they could be used to balance a Budget versus short term borrowing needs.) There will be a day set aside for “local government” issues, wherein CASA will testify in opposition to the property tax borrowing proposals.

### **III. REVENUES DECLINE AGAIN – ANOTHER \$3 TO \$4 BILLION HIT TO BUDGET?**

The Legislative Analyst, Mac Taylor, in speaking to the Conference Committee this afternoon, stated that revenues continue to lag due to: ongoing declines in the property values statewide, and pressures brought about by workload and caseload increases. Consequently, Mr. Taylor acknowledged that the state may have a “new budget problem” of approximately \$3.1 billion. The Department of Finance was asked to comment on this estimate and concurred that using their “most pessimistic analysis,” they agree that revenues could be \$3 billion to \$4 billion worse than previously estimated. (This would bring the total deficit to \$24-\$25 billion.) This revelation prompted Senator Lowenthal, a member of the Budget Conference Committee to ask, “Are we at the bottom and beginning to stabilize....or dropping at a precipitous rate?” The DOF and LAO said that they both relied on national economists and an intricate analysis to obtain forecast projections, but stated that they thought that the “bottom would occur at the end of 2009, with a modest rebound at the beginning of next year.”

Agenda Item -5.C.

PROJECT	FUNDING AGENCY-GRANT PROGRAM APPLIED						Project Total	
	USDA-RUS		CDPH-Water		SWRCB-WW	DWR-Prop 50		Sierra Nevada
	Grant	Loan	SRF	ARRA Stimulus	ARRA Stimulus	(1)	Conservancy	
Gravity Supply Line (6)	\$ 3,750,000	\$ 8,750,000		(3)			(3)	\$ 12,500,000
Buckhorn Backwash	\$ 351,632	\$ 351,632		(3)	(3)			\$ 703,264
Buckhorn WTP Disinfection By-Products Compliance	\$ 520,611		\$ 520,611	(3)				\$ 520,611
Gayla Manor WWTP Leachfield Expansion					\$ 349,266			\$ 349,266
Treated Water Line in Canal (5)	\$ 261,026	\$ 609,061	\$ 1,000,000	(3)		\$ 2,000,000		\$ 3,870,087
Raw Water Pipe in Canal				(3)				\$ -
Lake Camanche Water Disinfection Improvements	\$ 500,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,000,000	(3)				\$ 1,750,000
Regional Approach for Water Reuse Recycling Plan (2) (4)							\$ 270,000	\$ 270,000
Lake Camanche Groundwater Supply Study						\$ 247,547		\$ 247,547
(1) DWR Prop 50 funds are frozen due to the State's cash flow crisis								
(2) SNC funds are frozen due to the State's cash flow crisis								
(3) Applied for ARRA Stimulus \$\$ but not funded								
(4) Authorized \$3,000,000 from the Federal WRDA Bill								
(5) CDPH verbally indicated future SRF grants would be available								
(6) Agency is pursuing CA Energy Commission grant for \$1,000,000								
ARRA-American Recovery Reinvestment Act								
CDPH-California Dept of Public Health								
SNC-Sierra Nevada Conservancy								
SRF-State Revolving Fund								

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# STAFF REPORT

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## Graphical Information System (GIS) Presentation

### **Requested Action:**

No action is requested. This is an informational presentation only.

### **Background:**

The Water Agency Board of Director approved the purchase of a new software package to enhance the capabilities of Agency System Maps during the 07/08 Budget. Staff conducted an evaluation of several software packages available and determined that the Munsys package was the best software package to meet the needs of the Water Agency well into the future. This GIS program by definition integrates graphical map and data base information. The Munsys program is used to create maps, identify facility assets, link data and information to assets, interface with computer hydraulic modeling programs, import as-built map data, update facility asset information with the preventative maintenance program (CMMS), communicate and import data from the customer data base. This program, coupled with the webview application, allows any Agency staff computer user to view maps, facilities, and associated information without the need to use complicated drafting software (such as AutoCad). This greatly enhances the efficiency of Agency personnel who would otherwise have to look at hard copy maps (which are constantly undergoing updates) and assess data used to perform their daily duties. Just about every Agency employee must rely on information contained in or associated with maps. This includes the Engineering, Operations, Customer Service, Construction, and Executive staff.

Staff is in the process of implementing the software program and is very pleased with its capabilities. Staff appreciates the opportunity to share with the Board the value of this investment. This demonstration is intended to be able to

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show how useful this software will be for staff as we move forward with its full implementation over time.

Anthony Sudderth has been working with Munsys consultants for the continued implementation of the program. Anthony will provide the demonstration to the Board.

Prepared by:

Gene Mancebo